

I have long been an extensive user of FM radio and enjoy listening to the local college station WDCE in Richmond, VA for a sound not dominated by commercial interests all the time. Lately, I have become very concerned that evidence and comments by some organizations that are NOT owners or members of iBiquity, the National Association of Broadcasters and the NAB sponsored NRSC testing organization may turn out to be valid issues and thus could destroy radio reception for many Americans.

I am filing these Reply Comments in regards The Virginia Center For The Public Press, and others, who have offered evidence that implementation of In Band On Channel (IBOC) Digitalization could displace both aspiring and established stations as well.

Both NPR and M Street newsletter have noted that the public has demonstrated that they want less ads and a greater variety of programming content.

If any substantial portion of the VCPP, NPR and Amherst Alliance predictions and concerns are correct, we could DECREASE the variety and quality of programming content on the broadcast bands. This is not in the interests of smaller broadcasters or the public interest.

We urge the Commission to proceed with re-investigation of the Eureka-147 alternative Digitalization technology, which would avoid the displacement problem. Eureka 147 would possibly accomplish this by being implemented in the US using the same frequencies as are already used in Canada, on the L-Band from 1452-1492MHz.

While in 1992, the US Military needed 1452-1492MHz for missile test telemetry, now that the Canadians are transmitting Elvis on the L-Band, the military is already coming to agreements with the Canadians to begin protecting those Canadian stations and relinquishing some use of the L-Band.

Furthermore, in December 2001, just a few months ago, the FCC Commission announced that in a complete reversal of 1992 decisions, the Commission is now reallocating portions of the L-Band for private civilian uses.

Thus it is now politically and technically possible as well as more economically advantageous to re-investigate America joining the rest of the world in using the world accepted standard for Digital Audio Broadcasting on the L-Band.

Even then, of course, the Eureka-147 technology should first be tested and evaluated as thoroughly as the IBOC technology has been.

In no event should IBOC Digitalization be adopted without full and complete testing and evaluation of the less disruptive Eureka-147 Digitalization technology.

Sincerely, Mark Newton.